

## **Tips, Tools, Training and Grants for Parents and Professionals**

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#### **Tips and Tools for Parents**

1. **Early Brain Development** Two new Key Messages for parents have been added to the Centre for Early Childhood Development's Encyclopedia: 1) *Your child's brain: Showing you*

care is smart! (on the topic of stimulation) can be found at: <http://www.child-encyclopedia.com/pages/PDF/Brain-StimulationANGmcP.pdf> ) and *Your child's brain: Building a strong structure* is at: <http://www.child-encyclopedia.com/pages/PDF/Brain-StructureANGmcP.pdf>

2. **Opening the Door to Learning** From New Visions for Public Schools, this resource includes information for parents from birth through high school about literacy, including the development of reading skills at home and at school as well as a list of suggested books. Find it at: [http://www.newvisions.org/sites/default/files/publications/FLG08\\_English\\_0.pdf](http://www.newvisions.org/sites/default/files/publications/FLG08_English_0.pdf)
3. **New CELLcasts** The Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) continues to release new CELLcasts, which are audio/video versions of their written practice guides. CELLcasts can be watched online or can be downloaded to an iPod or MP3 player. These CELLcasts are included on this webpage: Baby's First Picture Books; My Turn, Your Turn; Wacky Word Games; Sights and Sounds; Books and Crayons of One's Own; and A is for Apple. Find them at: [http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/ta\\_cellcasts1.php](http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/ta_cellcasts1.php)
4. **What to Expect in Preschool: Math** This article explains the math concepts that preschool children should be learning - numbers, spatial relationships, patterns, measurement, and data - and suggests ways that parents can help with math skills at home. Find it at: <http://www.greatschools.org/students/academic-skills/1135-what-to-expect-at-preschool-math.gs?page=2>
5. **Tools to Promote Early Childhood Social-Emotional Health** The Center for Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation recently published these two new resources that can be used by parents, perhaps with the help of a professional. *My 1st Year Baby Book* is "designed to document a baby's first year of life", and *Discovering Feelings* helps children to label and understand different emotions. Find the tools as well as tips for using them at: [http://www.ecmhc.org/baby\\_books.html](http://www.ecmhc.org/baby_books.html)
6. **Baby Safety Guide** "The leading causes of unintentional injury-related death for infants are suffocation, car crashes, drowning, fire or burn injury, falls, and poisoning. Injuries are preventable..." This Guide from Safe Kids USA and Cribs for Kids covers essential safety information. Find a link to it at: <http://www.safekids.org/safety-basics/babies/>
7. **Seven Questions to Ask a Summer Camp** This Great Schools article suggests you ask questions about staff hiring, training, discipline, accidents, excursions, emergencies, and accreditation. Find it at: <http://www.greatschools.org/students/extracurricular/slideshows/screening-summer-camps.gs?content=2036&cpn=20110317LD>

### **Tips and Tools for Professionals (including home visitors and child care providers)**

9. **National Child Abuse Prevention Month** The 2011 National Child Abuse Prevention Month website provides strategies for engaging communities and supporting families. Included on the site are: 1) *Strengthening Families and Communities: 2011 Resource Guide*, a guide to help strengthen families by promoting key protective factors that prevent abuse; 2) tip sheets to distribute to parents and caregivers to address parenting concerns; 3) a calendar with the Five Protective Factors that includes activity suggestions to support children and families; and 4) widgets to put on your website. Find all these resources at: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/>
10. **Screen-Free Week**, April 17-24 Missoula is having a variety of Unplug and Play activities. Check out their website at: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/index.aspx?NID=973>

11. **National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day**, May 3 The theme for Awareness Day 2011 is building resilience for young children dealing with trauma. Read more at: [http://www.samhsa.gov/children/save\\_date\\_2011.asp](http://www.samhsa.gov/children/save_date_2011.asp)
12. **Domestic Violence and Children: Questions and Answers for Domestic Violence Project Advocates** This fact sheet includes children's responses (short-term and long-term and at different ages), protective factors, support and communication from parent to child, protecting children, coping with children's feelings and behaviors, secondary trauma and self-care, and more online resources. [http://www.nctsnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/DomViolenceFactSheet\\_final.pdf](http://www.nctsnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/DomViolenceFactSheet_final.pdf)
13. **What is home visiting?** "For new parents raising a child in poverty, alone or as a teenager, extra support from voluntary, high-quality home visiting services can lead to improved family health and self-sufficiency and substantial savings for taxpayers." Watch this short video from the Pew Home Visiting Project at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOhUpaabPDE>
14. **FAQs on the Brain** "[T]he brain is far more impressionable (neuroscientists use the term plastic) in early life than in maturity. This plasticity has both a positive and a negative side. On the positive side, it means that young children's brains are more open to learning and enriching influences. On the negative side, it also means that young children's brains are more vulnerable to developmental problems should their environment prove especially impoverished or un-nurturing." Find lots of information about brain development from Zero to Three: <http://www.zerotothree.org/child-development/brain-development/faqs-on-the-brain.html>
15. The **Working Family Resource Center** provides "education and support to help [parents] manage the competing demands of work and family, resulting in healthy families and communities where families can thrive." Resources on this website include: a series of online webinars about parenting, podcasts on specific parenting topics, Timely Tips for Busy Parents, and the Life Balance Digest. Find the website at: <http://www.workingfamilyresourcecenter.org/WFRC/en/index.asp>
16. **Montana Indian Education for All Early Childhood Website** This new website from the Montana Office of Public Instruction includes a variety of excellent resources for early childhood programming: <http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/Early-Childhood.html>
17. **Special Issue of *Early Childhood Research and Practice*** This issue focuses on young children and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Find it at: <http://ecrp.uiuc.edu/index.html>

## **Training**

18. **A Holistic Approach to Raising and Teaching Children**, April 23, 11:00 am–Noon, Red Willow Learning Center in Missoula, free. A presentation by Al Yee on his recently published book, *Raising and Teaching Children for Their Tomorrows*. The thesis of this book is that children's early life experiences forever shape their ability to learn, think, and conduct their adult lives.
19. **Montana Grandparents Raising Grandchildren 2011 Enhancement Workshops** (formerly called the annual Conference), June 11 in Great Falls and June 25, Billings. The theme this year is "Communication" and the keynote presenter is Anna Whiting Sorrell, Director of the Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services. Travel & accommodation assistance is available as well as free child care! For more information, contact the Montana GRG Project: (406) 994-3395 or [grg@montana.edu](mailto:grg@montana.edu).
20. **Western Montana Early Childhood Institute**, June 16-18, Pablo, \$100 includes books, materials, and lunch. LETRS Training (Learning Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) with Lucy Hart Paulson will be held on June 16 -17, with an optional LETRS Training

of Trainers on June 18<sup>th</sup> for an additional \$85. A variety of Early Childhood Education workshops will be offered on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Session topics include: Center for the Social-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (CSEFEL), technology, traditional Native games, Native American math, Love and Logic, movement, transitions from Part C to Part B, and trauma-informed educational environments. Registration is \$20. Watch for more information on the Western Montana CSPD website at: <http://www.wmcspd.org/>

21. **2011 Montana Behavioral Initiative (MBI) Summer Institute**, June 20-24, Bozeman, registration by June 1<sup>st</sup> costs an individual \$75 per day or \$265 per week, or a team member \$240 per week. This year's hot topics include: Drop Out Prevention, Student Aspirations, Targeted/Intensive Interventions, Parent/Family/Community Engagement, Classroom Management, Mental Health, Early Childhood, Health Enhancement, Evidence Based Practices, and 21st Century Learning Strategies. Register at <http://www.montana.edu/cs/conferences/mbi/>
22. **Principles of Violence Prevention** is a free on-line course, which offers continuing education credits, teaches key concepts of primary prevention, the public health approach, and the social-ecological model. Participants complete interactive exercises to learn to help prevent five types of violence: child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, suicide, and youth violence. The course is designed for those interested in stopping violence from ever happening. It helps people move from the problem to the solution. This course teaches the fundamentals of effective violence prevention methods and incorporates the growing body of research on what works. Find it at: <http://www.vetoviolence.org/pop/prevention-main.html>
23. **Online Immunization Training** Montana children have the lowest immunization rates nationally. This informative, one hour training gives caregivers and families valuable information about immunizations and immunization schedules. The training provides information about the importance of immunizations and the ages at which they should be administered. You can access this training by going to <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Immunization/DaycareResources.shtml>. Click on "Child Care Resources" in the table of choices, then scroll down to the Immunization Presentation for Child Care Providers. After viewing the PowerPoint presentation you will take the quiz which is right below the presentation. The instructions for completing are included.

## **Funding Resources**

24. **Verizon Foundation** The Verizon Foundation funds "partners and programs that achieve meaningful outcomes and measurable results in specific areas within each of our Funding Priorities..." Funding areas include: education, literacy, domestic violence prevention, healthcare and accessibility, and internet safety. Proposals are reviewed from January 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Read more at: <http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/guidelines.shtml>
25. The **AMA Foundation's Healthy Living Grants** Program provides "healthy lifestyles seed grants for grassroots public health programs... Funded projects should target underserved and/or at-risk youth between the ages of 2-21." Read more at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/ama-foundation/our-programs/public-health/healthy-living-grants.shtml>
26. **Target Early Childhood Reading Grants** "Target awards grants to schools, libraries and nonprofit organizations to support programs such as after-school reading events and weekend book clubs... [with the goal of] fostering a love of reading and encouraging children, preschool through third grade, to read together with their families... Early childhood reading grants are \$2,000. Grant applications are typically accepted between March 1 and April 30 each year,

with grant notifications delivered in September.” Read more at:

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031821>

27. **BE BIG Contest** “BE BIG™ is a national campaign that invites everyone, big and small, to take action and raise awareness for how CLIFFORD'S BIG IDEAS (Share, Play Fair, Have Respect, Work Together, Be Responsible, Be A Good Friend, Help Others, Be Truthful, Be Kind, Believe In Yourself) can make the world a better place. The mission of BE BIG is to recognize and reward others for their BE BIG actions, to catalyze change in local communities and to provide resources for everyone to share BIG Ideas.” Deadline for submissions is June 17, 2011. Find out more at: <http://www.handsonnetwork.org/bebig>
28. **SparkAction** has a “Fund and Sustain Your Work” section on their website that lists a variety of grants. Find it at: <http://sparkaction.org/act/fund>

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